

# The Bel Aire Breeze

Vol. 7, No. 10

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Complimentary copy

## Bel Aire among best suburbs

Real estate  
company ranks  
city No. 1 in  
county

By Matt Heilman

The City of Bel Aire is the best suburb to call home in Sedgwick County. At least according to a list developed by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC.

Bel Aire ranked No. 7 on the real estate company's top 25 list for the state. All six of the cities ranked ahead of Bel Aire are in Johnson County. Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said the ranking was based on a number of fac-

tors, including access to amenities and good schools, average commute times to and from work and community safety.

Kechi ranks No. 11 on the list

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Bel Aire was noted for quality-of-life amenities, such as parks.

Matt Heilman



Matt Heilman

Paul Pfortmiller (left) and Charlie Eaton enjoy a conversation during an Oct. 6 reunion celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Bel Aire Senior Club. The club, which started with about 20 members in 1987, has seen its participation nearly tripled.

## ‘Most perfect’ group

### Bel Aire Senior Club celebrates 25th birthday

By Matt Heilman

It's been a quarter century since a committee was organized to establish a senior club for a young city.

Today, several members from the core group that started the club are still active, including its oldest member who has lived in the Wichita area since the Great Depression.

Charlie Eaton, who moved to Bel Aire in the mid-1960s, was on hand at an Oct. 6 belated celebration for the 25th anniversary of the Bel Aire Senior Club at the city's rec center. The Bel Aire Senior Club started in February of 1987 with about 20 members. Today, the participation has nearly tripled as the city has grown.

On Oct. 6, Eaton, who turns 96 on Nov. 16, said his involvement in the senior club has helped him stay active and healthy at an age where most of his peers that are still alive have had to relocate to assisted living facilities.

The retired electrician and widower now lives with his son, Rodney Eaton, but maintains his independence. Eaton said he enjoys volunteering his time repairing old televisions and radios. He operates a ham radio and recently had his driver's license renewed for another four years.

"I probably won't be driving for that long, but I'm still a good driver," Eaton said with a smile.

Eaton was Bel Aire's second mayor from 1983 to 1985 and served as a council member in the 1980s and 1990s. As a city leader and in his career, Eaton said he was



Lois Hiebert looks through old photos during the Oct. 6 gathering of senior club members at the Bel Aire Rec Center.

involved in many groups over the years, none of which compared to the Bel Aire Senior Club.

"I've been part of a lot of different types of groups in my life and this is the most perfect one I've been in," he said. "There isn't one bad person in this bunch. That's the truth. ... I have really enjoyed it."

Bel Aire Senior Club member and retired city employee Betty Martine leads several senior activities in Bel Aire, including preparations for the senior club's 25th anniversary celebration. On Oct. 6, past and current group members spent time visiting

and looking over old photos before attending a formal dinner at the rec center.

Martine said the senior club members still enjoy potluck dinners and road trips to different historical or entertainment sites across the state. Although nearly three decades younger than Eaton, Martine was part of the group that helped establish the senior club in Bel Aire.

"We're all about the same age," she joked of the founding group. "We're still getting along."

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## Brunk seeks 6th term in House

By Matt Heilman

Republican Steve Brunk is seeking a sixth term to represent his district in the Kansas House of Representatives. On Nov. 6, the Bel

Aire resident will face a challenger in Democrat Barry Stanley, who lives in northeast Wichita. Brunk, who began serving House District 85 in 2003, started with a focus on job creation and has risen through the ranks of the Legislature, serving as the chair of the Federal and State Affairs Committee, which he described as a primary policy committee.

If re-elected, the real estate broker said he hoped to introduce a property tax bill that seeks more transparency from tax-collecting entities. The basic formula calls for local governments to adjust tax rates to offset the average increase or decrease in assessed valuations of properties

See ELECTION, Page 2

## Developer frustrated with city's startup fee

By Matt Heilman

For the most part, the last several months have gone well on the development front for the City of Bel Aire. There is dirt moving with more commitments to build. But at its Oct. 16 meeting, the Bel Aire council heard some displeasure from a group affiliated with a key development that has been more than four years in the making.

Bud Cortner, president of the Wichita Area Association of Realtors, is working with Tierra Verde developers Terrie Grillot and Paul Cavanaugh to help market the development. The council has done its part to support the commercial development near 47th North and Webb Road. The city has issued about \$5.5 million in industrial revenue bonds for the Concierge Surgical Recovery Center, which is the first tenant committed to building in Tierra Verde. Plans call for Tierra Verde to consist of three phases when it's finished.

The bonds come with tax abatements on construction costs and property taxes, but a \$250,000 origination fee assessed with the issuance of the bonds had Cortner and the devel-

See FEE, Page 2



# In sports, old habits die hard

I’ve reached a point in my life where sports just don’t matter as much as they used to. It still stings when the Wichita State men’s basketball team makes boneheaded mistakes to fall short of expectations, but I’ve learned to get over it. I still don’t like it when teams I can’t stand continually find success and the teams I pull for can’t get their act together.

But I’m telling you, I’m a new man compared to where I was even a couple of years ago. The days of temper tantrums and angry pacing in front of the TV are over. Or so I thought.

I’m afraid I relapsed. While watching the opening game of the MLB American League Championship Series Oct. 13, I was rooting against the New York Yankees with every fiber of my being. Really, I wasn’t rooting for the Detroit Tigers.



**Heil on life**  
**By Matt Heilman**

I was rooting against the Yankees. When you watch a game just to root against a team, you’re entering dangerous territory.

Rooting FOR a team gives you a bonding experience that can improve friendships and father-son relationships. Even if your team loses, you have fellow supporters there to get you through it.

When I’m just out to root AGAINST a team, I find that I’m more irritable and bitter. Last month I bravely mocked and threw insults

at the Yankees from my living room half a country away. I also made fun of Yankee fans and was having a good ol’ time as Detroit built a 4-0 lead through eight innings.

I’m not a Detroit fan, but I was somehow feeling better about the world knowing the Tigers were just three outs away from winning Game 1. Unfortunately, the Yankees went to work in the bottom of the ninth.

Yankee veteran Raul Ibanez almost indirectly broke my hand. New York trailed 4-2 with two outs in the bottom of the ninth when the former Royal and clutch post-season performer delivered a two-run home run to tie it.

In a blind fury, I stood up and punched the front door of my house as hard as I could. After a few minutes to collect myself, I realized how ridiculous I was to be so angry.

I held a small ice pack on my

knuckles and sat in shameful silence as I watched the rest of the game unfold in extra innings.

I felt especially foolish when the Tigers went on to win it in 12. My fury was in vain.

I swear, I’m a new man. But old habits die hard.

*Matt Heilman is a reporter for The Bel Aire Breeze. Reach him at matt@arkvalleynews.com.*

## The Bel Aire Breeze

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### Mayor's corner

**By Harold Smith**

Councilman Terrebonne and his wife will soon be moving to Florida. This means there will be another opening on the city council.

If any citizen has an interest in serving on the city council, send me your resume and/or a letter of interest. Please list any experience you have that would help you in this position. I will need to receive this by Nov. 15.

An applicant will need to live in Bel Aire and be a registered voter in Bel Aire. The term of office will be to the next April city election.

## CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

### Christ Lutheran Church

There are three different types of services every Sunday. At 8:30 a.m., there is a Contemporary Service; at 9:45 a.m., a Kid Friendly Service as well as Sunday School for all ages; and at 11:00 a.m., a Traditional Lutheran Service. Communion is offered at every service every Sunday.

A variety of weekly and monthly activities are offered including Falcon Fellowship (Free lunch for students at Heights High School on the 2nd Wednesday of the month), Youth groups, Quilting, Choirs, and Men’s Breakfast.

Find the church online at [www.christ-lutheran.org](http://www.christ-lutheran.org); e-mail office@clc.kscoxmail.com. Pastor Chad’s email is [pastor@clc.kscoxmail.com](mailto:pastor@clc.kscoxmail.com). Call the office at 744-1242.

The church is located at 5356 N. Hillside (at 53rd and N. Hillside, across from Wichita Heights HS)

### Church of the Resurrection

Church of the Resurrection (Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire.

Masses for the Lord’s Day are 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Weekday Masses are 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; also at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school website is [www.resurrectionwichita.com](http://www.resurrectionwichita.com). Phone number is 744-2776. Rev. James F. Weldon is the pastor.

### Community Bible Chapel

The church is located at 4551 Auburn, south of 45th North between Oliver and Woodlawn, in Bel Aire.

Worship service and breaking of the bread are at 9 a.m., with Bible study and Sunday school at 10:30 on Sundays.

Wednesday prayer and Bible study are at 7 p.m.

For more information, call Melvan Adair at 744-7091.

### Crossroads Friends Church

Crossroads Friends Church meets at Stucky Middle School (on 45th North between Hillside and Oliver) at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

The church has Crossroads Kids and Crossroads Cribs ministry areas, as well as contemporary music, relevant Bible teaching and a laid-back, friendly atmosphere.

Pastor is Jeff Mullen.

Call the church office at 361-0407 or visit it online at [www.crossroadswichita.com](http://www.crossroadswichita.com).

### Fairmount United Church of Christ

The church welcomes a new minister, Rev. Larry Young.

Visit the newly renovated building at 1605 Fairmount in Wichita (one block south and one block east of Hillside and 17th North).

Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m. which includes children’s church. Sunday school begins at 9:30.

For more information, call 682-1597 or visit at [www.fairmountuccc.org](http://www.fairmountuccc.org).

### Gospel Assembly Church

Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, service times are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Bible study is 7 p.m. Monday. Prayer service is 7 p.m. Tuesday. Praise and worship is 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Phone number is 744-1502. Rev. Gary D. Green is the pastor.

### Greenwich United Methodist Church

Sunday worship service at 9 a.m. Fellowship and coffee follow the service.

Pastor Jeff Miller can be reached at 744-0203.

Senior Day first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m.

United Methodist Women meet the first Thursday of each month at 1 p.m.

Movie night is the second Saturday of each month at 6:30 p.m. A snack is served.

The church is located about a mile south of K-254 on Greenwich Road. The phone number is 744-0203.

### Kechi United Methodist Church

The church is located at 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi. The Rev. Guy E. Rendoff is the pastor. Phone number is 744-1221, website is [www.kechiumc.org](http://www.kechiumc.org) and e-mail address is [kechiumc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kechiumc@sbcglobal.net).

Sunday worship and praise band is at 9:03 a.m., Sunday school is at 10 and worship is at 11.

Wednesday evening Rest Stop is from 7 to 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. There will be prayer time, a short sermon and holy communion. Child-care is provided.

### Park City Church of the Nazarene

Sunday school for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. Worship and children’s church are at 10:45.

Wednesday evening light meal at 6:30 and Bible study at 7.

The church is located at 2100 E. 61st North in Park City.

### Pine Valley Christian Church

The church is located at 5620 E. 21st North. Sunday school is at 9 a.m. with worship at 10:15. For more information call 685-2421.

### Risen Savior Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Contemporary Sunday worship services at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Communion on the first and third Sunday. Adult Sunday school and Bible class meet at 9:15 a.m. Children’s church at 10:30.

A nursery is provided during Bible class and second service. Wednesday evening ministries are 6:30-8 p.m.

Preschool enrollment is now open for 3-year-olds through Pre-Kindergarten.

The church is located at 6770 E. 34th North in Wichita. The phone number is 683-5538; [www.risensavior.net](http://www.risensavior.net).

Senior pastor is Tom Harmon.

Associate pastor is Ron Gloe.

### University United Methodist Church

The church is located across from the Wichita State University campus at 21st and Yale.

Sunday activities include adult and youth educational classes at 9:15 a.m., traditional service at 10:30 and youth group activities from 4 to 6 p.m.

E-mail [uumc2220@uumc.net](mailto:uumc2220@uumc.net); phone 686-6765. Rev. Charles Claycomb is the pastor.

*Send your church’s upcoming events and service times to [legals@arkvalleynews.com](mailto:legals@arkvalleynews.com) or call 755-0821.*

## Club

**Continued from Page 1**

Starting this year, members of the senior club have shared more activities with members of the Bel Aire Senior Center. Unlike the senior center, the city’s senior club had never received county funds or held

an office at City Hall, even though the club has been around longer than the senior center.

To increase efficiency and save costs, the senior organizations have been consolidated under the guidance of Bel Aire Rec Center Director Brian Hayes. Altogether, Hayes and his staff work with

about 100 seniors in Bel Aire.

Members from both the senior club and the senior center now share an annual operating budget of about \$26,000. The budget includes about \$8,000 from the city and about \$18,000 from Sedgwick County.

Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said the groups have

separate meetings, but share in several activities. Several residents who were part of the senior center were on hand for the 25th anniversary celebration for the senior club.

“Folks just go to different activities now,” Lasher said of consolidating the senior groups. “It’s not like it used to be.”

Looking ahead, he said Bel

Aire’s senior services could expand farther. Recently, Sedgwick County cut funding to Kechi’s Over-55 Club, Lasher said.

For seniors like Eaton, the expansion of that core group that started Bel Aire’s first senior organization in 1987 has been positive for the city. He said the main focus of involve-

ment in a senior organization for retired residents is to help them stay active and not “just sit around” after their careers are finished.

Besides staying active, Eaton didn’t reveal any grand secret to maintaining independence near the century mark.

“I’ve been very lucky,” he said.

## Election

**Continued from Page 1**

to get to a point of being “government neutral.” Once at the point of neutrality, Brunk said the tax-collecting entities could then evaluate what’s needed and raise or lower taxes accordingly.

Property taxes shouldn’t automatically increase when

assessed valuations do, Brunk said.

For now, District 85 includes Bel Aire east of Woodlawn and part of northeast Wichita. The majority of the city’s population is west of Woodlawn in what’s called “Old Bel Aire.” The population is expected to shift over the next few years as the city anticipates commercial and residential development to pick up east

of Woodlawn.

In House District 89, Republican Emmanuel Banks and Democrat Roderick Houston are looking to replace representative Melody McCray-Miller, a Democrat who is not seeking re-election.

District 89 includes Bel Aire’s population west of Woodlawn and part of northeast Wichita.

In House District 91,

which includes Park City, most of Kechi and part of north Wichita, incumbent Rep. Gene Suellentrop will face Democrat Katelyn Delavaux on Nov. 6. Suellentrop was first appointed to the House in December 2009.

To the west, Republican Steve Huebert will seek his seventh term serving House District 90 against Democrat Merry Matthews. Huebert, a Valley Center resident, has

served as the chairman for the state’s Legislative Education Planning Commission. District 90 runs from near Benton in the east to near Mount Hope in the west. The district includes Valley Center and parts of northwest Wichita and runs north to the Harvey County line.

In the state Senate, Republicans Carolyn McGinn in District 31 and Ty Masterson in District 16 are unop-

posed on the Nov. 6 ballot.

McGinn has served as a state senator since 2005, representing her district, which includes north-central Wichita, Park City, Valley Center, Kechi, Bel Aire west of Woodlawn and Harvey County.

Masterson has served as a senator since 2009 in a district that includes Bel Aire east of Woodlawn and runs east into Butler County.

## Fee

**Continued from Page 1**

opers concerned, especially because they didn’t know about the fee until last month.

Grillot reminded the council that she has worked with city leaders for more than four years and hasn’t backed down from her plans to see the Tierra Verde development become a reality in Bel Aire.

Although the \$250,000 would be assessed over a 10-year period, she said she didn’t have an extra

\$25,000 per-year expense budgeted when factoring in additional fees needed to get the project off the ground.

She asked the council to reconsider the steep origination fee and said having the extra expense tacked on to the project would be “devastating.”

“I’ve been here for four years. I don’t see anyone else that has stayed this long and been more dedicated than (Cavanaugh) and I,” she said.

In requesting the council to reconsider the origination fee, Cortner said a similar fee

in Wichita was only \$25,000, which would equate to \$2,500 annually over 10 years.

He recommended that Bel Aire lower its fee to match what’s offered in Wichita with the issuance of IRBs.

“If you could reconsider, that would be great for this development,” he said.

The council also heard Dr. George Watson discuss his plans to move his practice from its current office in Park City to the Concierge Surgical Recovery Center. The 9,000-square-foot facility planned as the first tenant

in Tierra Verde will provide patients with more affordable care than they’d receive with a hospital stay, Watson said. Like Cortner and Grillot, he urged the council to reconsider the \$250,000 origination fee.

The council didn’t take any formal action on the matter at its Oct. 16 meeting, but the group and Mayor Harold Smith agreed to revisit the origination fee to assess whether it should be reduced, waived or stay the same.

City Manager Ty Lasher crunched some numbers to

“put the origination fee in perspective.” He pointed out that the benefits with the issuance of IRBs come out to nearly \$2 million for the first tenant in Tierra Verde.

Council member David Austin said the council needed to address the concerns presented to them as soon as possible to assure that there wasn’t a perception among potential developers that Bel Aire isn’t easy

to work with. But he said the concerns also highlighted a positive for Bel Aire, showing how far the city has come on the development front and its quest to alleviate its steep land debt.

# arkvalleynews.com

### Christ Lutheran Church ELCA

**Tradition with a Twist**

8:30 • Contemporary Guitar Service

11:00 • Traditional Service

9:45 • Adult Learning

9:45 • Kid Friendly Service starting Sept. 9th

Communion will be at all services.

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# City of Bel Aire



## Bel Aire Recreation

5251 E. 48th North • [www.belaireks.gov](http://www.belaireks.gov) • 744-2700  
Mon., Tue., & Thur. 8-8 • Wed. & Fri. 8-7 • Sat. 9-3

For more information on these or any Bel Aire Recreation Programs call 744-2700.

### WALK WITH EASE

Bel Aire Recreation has partnered with the Arthritis Foundation to bring you Walk with Ease, a structured six-week program for walking. Walk with Ease has been designed specifically for people with arthritis, but it can be a practical and useful resource for anyone who wishes to increase physical activity. Tuesdays-Thursdays from 8:15-9 a.m. beginning Nov. 1

### PRE-SEASON BOYS BASKETBALL CLINIC

Bel Aire Recreation has partnered with Brent Atwater, a former collegiate player and coach, to bring you several basketball clinics and camps throughout the year. Atwater's programs stress the fundamentals of basketball which make them perfect for kids of all ages and skill levels. The basketball clinic will be held Saturday, December 8th from 1:30-4 p.m. Please call Brent at 807-1036 or visit [www.maximizetraining.com](http://www.maximizetraining.com)

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Basketball is for boys ages 5-11. Practices will be set up by the coaches on weeknights beginning December 17. Games will be played on Saturdays starting Jan. 5. The registration deadline is December 1.

### DAZZLING DANCERS (ages 4 & up)

These recreational youth classes will focus

on ballet and jazz dance. Classes will meet on Tuesday evenings beginning in mid-October. Please call for more details.

### ZUMBA

Zumba is a Latin-inspired, dance-fitness class that incorporates Latin and international music and dance movements, creating a dynamic, exciting, exhilarating, and effective fitness system. Classes are held on Mondays & Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Teens & adults can join at any time!

### TAEKWONDO (ages 5 & up)

Classes meet on Monday & Friday from 5:00-6:00 pm or Tuesday & Thursday from 7:10-8:10 pm. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

### YOGA

Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:10-7:10 pm. Participants need to provide their own yoga mat. Adults can join at any time! Teens & adults can join at any time!

### FITNESS CENTER (ages 16 & up)

The Fitness Center consists of elliptical cross trainers, treadmills, recumbent bike, multi-station weight machine, and free-weights. There is no charge for pass holders, or it is available with the purchase of a daily pass.

**A \$5 late fee will be charged to all sign-ups after the deadline.**

**For more information on these or any Bel Aire Recreation Programs call 744-2700**

## Bel Aire Seniors

*All SENIORS 55+ are cordially invited to all events listed below. The Senior Center and Library area is open from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Monday through Friday excluding holidays. The library has a wide selection of library books to check out at no cost nor time restraints, along with computers available for study or research. Remember any senior can belong or attend to more than one senior center/club in Sedgwick County.*

### Locations:

Senior Center/Community Room – 7651 E. Central Park Ave., 744-2451  
Recreation Center – 5251 E. 48th St. N., 744-2700

### Weekly Events:

**Bel Aire Walkers** – M-F, 8-9 a.m. at the Rec Center (indoors & climate controlled)

Free for BA Senior members, alternate times available

**Men's Coffee & Fellowship** – Mondays, 10 a.m. at the Senior Center

**Yoga** – Mondays & Wednesdays, 6 p.m. at the Rec Center (monthly fee)

**Bridge Games** – Tuesdays, 1 p.m. at the Senior Center

**Low Impact Aerobics** – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. at the Rec Center

**Braum's Breakfast** – Fridays, 9:00 a.m. on North Rock Road

**Arthritis Foundation's Walk with Ease Program** — Tues, Wed, Thurs, 8:12 a.m. at the Rec Center

## Monthly & Special Events:

**Oct. 15 – December 7th**, Medicare Open Enrollment

Nov. 2, 11 a.m. – Cynthia Wilson, “Who Will Take Care of Mom?”

**November 5th, 6:30 p.m.** – Potluck Dinner and Marilyn Holt “The Orphan Train” - Community Room

**November 6th, 8:30 a.m.** – Breakfast – Cracker Barrel

**November 12th, 10 a.m.** – RS Advisory Meeting at the Rec Center

**November 12th, 11:30 a.m.** – Lunch at Jersey's 3213 N. Toben

**November 13th, 9 a.m.** – CS Advisory Meeting at the Rec Center

**November 14th, 10 a.m.** – Volunteer library work time at the Senior Center

**November 16th, 7 p.m.** – Movie Night

**November 16th. 11 a.m.** – Nancy Trout, “Beyond the Blues”

**November 20th, Ladies Dine Out** - for info call Anita at 744-2840

**November 21st, 10 a.m.** – Men's Coffee at Braum's on North Rock Road

**November 21st, 10:15 a.m.** – Senior Aerobics Brunch (different locations)

**November 21st, 2 p.m.** – Ladies Tea/Coffee at Braum's on North Rock Road

**November 26th, 6 p.m.** – Covered Dish Dinner and Craig Newland “Honor Flight”

**November 28th, 10 a.m.** – Open Sewing at the Senior Center

**December 3rd, 6:30 p.m.** – Potluck Dinner, Christmas Program

## Community Events

**TOPS** – Tuesdays, 9 a.m. at the Senior Center

**City Council Meetings** – 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month

**Nov. 6** – Election Day

**Nov. 10 – 10:30 a.m.** – Red Hat Meeting, Old Cowtown Museum, call Anita for more info at 744-2840

**Nov. 12** – Veteran's Day (Bel Aire City Offices Closed)

**Nov. 12 – 7 p.m.** - Bel Aire Heights HOA meeting in the Community Room

**Nov. 12 – 7 p.m** - Central Park HOA meeting at the Senior Center

**Nov. 20 – 4-6 p.m.** - UAC Meeting at the Senior Center

**Nov. 22** – Thanksgiving

**Nov. 23** – Bel Aire City Offices Closed

**Nov. 26 – 7 p.m.** - Tree Board Meeting at the Senior Center

## Have you seen the Action Line?

Log on to <http://www.egovlink.com/belaire/action.asp> to submit comments and concerns, ask questions or report a problem directly to City staff. We want to hear from you!

## Join us for History in the Making!

Please join City officials as we break ground with Century Manufacturing, Inc. at the new Sunflower Commerce park located at 50th & Webb Road. Monday, Nov. 5 at 11 a.m. (will be moved to City Hall in case of inclement weather)

## City Council Vacancy

Moe Terrebonne will be vacating his seat on the City Council. If you are interested in serving in his place until the next election in April of 2012, please submit a resume or letter of interest to Mayor Harold Smith at 7651 E. Central Ave, Bel Aire, KS 67226 by November 15. You must be a registered voter in the City of Bel Aire.

## Enroll for automatic bill pay

Never worry if you paid your utility bill on time again with automated bill payments through the City. Each month on the 5th, your checking account will be automatically debited for your current bill. All you need to do to sign up is fill out the ACH auto payment form available on the City's website, [www.belaireks.gov](http://www.belaireks.gov), or come into City Hall to fill out the form and submit a voided check to the Utility Clerk. Simple, easy, and you don't have to worry when the 10th rolls around if you paid the bill or not!

## City Council

Mayor Harold Smith 744-2650

Dr. Gary Breault 744-0560

Peggy O'Donnell 744-0250

Moe Terrebonne 744-2747

David Austin 744-7188

Ken Lee 744-2047

## City Hall

Ty Lasher, City Manager ..... 744-2451, ext. 217

Recreation Department ..... 744-2700

Central Park Pool ..... 744-7331

Parks Department ..... 744-8609

Police • Emergency ..... 911

Non-emergency ..... 744-6000

Animal Control (Sedgwick County) ..... 660-7070

Public Works ..... 744-2888

Water/Sewer Emergency (after 5 p.m.) 761-6972 or 761-6973

Utility Billing ..... 744-2451, ext. 132

(Waste Connections) ..... 838-4920

Hazardous Waste (Sedgwick County) ..... 660-7464

## Sign Up Today For E-Billing!

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# Bel Aire council holds off on rezoning request

By Matt Heilman

While city leaders are encouraged by the continued interest in Bel Aire on the development front, the city isn't in a desperate enough position to say "yes" to every proposal that comes its way. There's usually a lot to consider before the city approves vacant land for development. In the Elk Creek addition, residents in the upscale development have seen a lot of changes over the last several months. West of homes in the \$300,000 to \$500,000 range, about 27 acres is being developed with smaller patio homes, dubbed courtyard homes because each unit will have its own private courtyard. In July, the

council followed the planning commission's recommendation to approve a zone change to allow for Wichita-based Perfection Builders LLC to construct the courtyard homes. The zone change met some opposition from neighbors in the larger, single-family homes in Elk Creek, but it was decided that the courtyard homes would benefit the city without negatively impacting neighboring property values. Part of the plan with the construction from Perfection Builders is for a berm to provide a barrier between the courtyard homes and the more spaced out, single-family homes in Elk Creek. On Oct. 2, the Bel

Aire council heard that another builder has expressed an interest in constructing more patio-type homes closer to the single-family homes in Elk Creek, east of Perfection Builders' 27 acres. The land east of the acreage is currently owned by Stillwater National Bank. CRK Properties LLC had expressed interest to purchase 15 lots from the bank for construction of the patio homes. As was the case with the 27 acres to the west, the Bel Aire council would have to approve a zone change from R-3 low density zoning, to R-5, which enables homes to be built closer together. The zoning change goes against the covenants of the homeowner's association

with Elk Creek. In reviewing the plans, the Bel Aire Planning Commission sided with concerned homeowners in recommending that the council deny the zone change and block the construction plans from CRK Properties. Lasher said the key concern was that approval of the zone change would take the 15 lots out of the homeowner's association. While supportive of the planning commission's findings, Lasher recommended that the council table a decision on the rezoning for 30 days. The reason he said is to give representatives from the bank that owns the property just northwest of 45th North and Rock Road a chance to speak with Elk Creek

homeowners to determine if there is a solution that can be reached that could allow construction to occur and provide an acceptable transition between the single-family homes and the Perfection Builders courtyard homes. The council unanimously agreed to table a decision on the rezoning with an informal understanding that they would stick with the planning commission and the homeowner's association and deny the zone change if the bank doesn't reach an agreement with the concerned homeowners. Also on Oct. 2, the council: •Approved an appropriations ordinance of \$347,721.45. •Heard council member Moe Terrebonne announce that in his retirement, he will be soon be moving from Bel Aire, at least for sever-

al months during the year and will have to step down from the council. Terrebonne, who has served his current term for about 1 1/2 years said he will likely step down next month. •Held a public hearing to discuss an estimated \$1.725 million in needed water and sewer improvements to be financed through a federal loan. No one spoke during the public hearing and no formal action was taken by the council. •Approved a change order with CK contracting for seeding, fertilization and mulching for erosion control in Phase I of the Rock Springs Addition not to exceed \$9,000. •Approved a utility service agreement with Tierra Verde to extend the electric and gas mains along Webb Road to the Tierra Verde and Sunflower Commerce Park developments. •Approved holding a council workshop at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 11. All five council members and Mayor Harold Smith were present at the Oct. 2 meeting.

## POLICE REPORTS

**Oct. 24** — Lt. Griggs assisted EMS in the 4700 block of North Hedgerow Court. **Oct. 24** — Lt. Griggs responded to a report of a sex offense in the 5500 block of North Lycee. **Oct. 24** — Officer Murphy responded to the 5800 block of East 49th North to check the welfare of a child. A boy was outside alone in the front yard of a residence. The boy's mother returned. The mother told the officer she left the boy alone while she picked up her daughter. **Oct. 24** — Officer Steele checked the perimeter of a building in the 6200 block of East 37th North. A door was unsecured, but there were no signs of suspicious activity. **Oct. 23** — A two-vehicle wreck was reported at 37th North and Oliver. No injuries were reported. **Oct. 23** — Officer Hutton responded to a report of telephone fraud in the 5700 block of East Odessa. A resident said someone called him saying he won \$2.5 million and all he needed to collect the money was to provide the caller with a \$285 pre-paid Visa card. **Oct. 23** — Officer McCaslin responded to a possible health-related problem in the 4500 block of North Woodlow. A woman refused to be treated. **Oct. 19** — Officer Murphy responded to a report of fraud over the telephone in the 4400 block of North Westlake Court. A woman said a person called and offered a \$100 gift card. To claim it, the caller needed the woman's credit card information. The woman refused to give the caller information. **Oct. 19** — Officer Moyer responded to a report of a person receiving three unwanted phone calls in which the caller says nothing. **Oct. 19** — Officer Steele discovered the gym door of the Sunrise Christian Academy building propped open with a traffic cone. There was no evidence of suspicious activity. **Oct. 18** — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of a runaway in the 6700 block of East 44th North. Later, the officer was contacted and told the girl had returned. She had been out with friends. **Oct. 18** — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 5500 block of East 45th North. The driver was cited for speeding and no driver's license in possession. **Oct. 18** — Officer Steele responded to a report of a disturbance in the 6700 block of East 44th North. **Oct. 17** — Officer Murphy responded to an alarm on a residence in the 5000 block of North Lake Breeze Court. There were no signs of suspicious activity. **Oct. 17** — Lt. Griggs assisted El Dorado police on serving a search warrant in the 4300 block of North Linden, where there was a garage

and trailer with suspected stolen property. None of the items could be linked to the theft report. **Oct. 17** — Officer Hutton contacted the driver of a vehicle that was parked in a field in the 10800 block of East 45th North. After the officer noticed six five-gallon buckets full of fresh dirt in the back of the vehicle, the driver said he was getting top soil for his garden. The driver was cited for having no driver's license and was warned about trespassing and possible theft. **Oct. 16** — Lt. Griggs responded to an alarm at Emprise in the 6300 block of East 37th North. The alarm was false. **Oct. 16** — Officer Hutton assisted EMS with a patient having difficulty breathing at Isley Elementary in the 5200 block of North Woodlawn. **Oct. 16** — Officer Swanson took a report of a larceny. A man said he tried to get a \$1,000 loan from a company and gave the company \$596 on a pre-paid credit card to secure the loan, but he never received the loan. **Oct. 16** — Officer Swanson assisted firefighters with a vehicle fire in the 7600 block of East 45th North. Damage was minimal. **Oct. 16** — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 5600 block of North Webb. Luis J. Hindman was arrested on charges of driving with a revoked license and driving while a habitual violator. **Oct. 15** — Officer Steele responded to the 5100 block of North Remington for a welfare check. Everything was OK. **Oct. 13** — Officer Murphy assisted EMS with a man in a ditch in the 3700 block of North Parkwood. The man was transported to his residence in the 4000 block of Clarendon. The man said he did not have his keys, and his wallet and cell phone were missing. The man's mother responded with a key. Officer determined the man left his property on patio furniture in the backyard and attempted to walk to his vehicle at P.F. Chang's in Wichita before falling asleep in the ditch. **Oct. 13** — Officer Foxx responded to a burglary in the 5000 block of East 49th North. Missing from the residence were a laptop computer, 12 bottles of wine, two digital cameras and \$200 in cash. **Oct. 13** — Officer Steele responded to an animal at-large in the 4800 block of North Hedgerow. A cat under a porch appeared injured. County animal control was notified. **Oct. 13** — Officer Steele responded to a residence in the 4800 block of East 40th North, where the calling party said his ex-girlfriend was involved in a burglary. There was no evidence of suspicious activity. **Oct. 12** — Officer Steele dis-

covered a vehicle without a tag and another vehicle with a tag that belonged to the untagged vehicle in the 3800 block of North Hillcrest. An impound warning was affixed to the antennas of both vehicles. **Oct. 12** — Officer Foxx observed a vehicle driving slowly around the school in the 5500 block of North Lycee. It was school district security. **Oct. 11** — Officer Murphy assisted EMS in the 4500 block of North Glendale. A woman was taken to the hospital. **Oct. 11** — Officer Murphy stopped a vehicle in the 5100 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was cited for speeding and driving with a suspended license. **Oct. 11** — Officer Swanson responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 5100 block of East Ashton Court. A person said a young boy was riding a scooter while holding an ax. The ax was a hedge trimming tool that the boy was throwing in the air and watching it stick into the ground. The boy's stepfather was notified. **Oct. 10** — Officer Murphy took a report of vandalism to a vehicle in the 5200 block of North Woodlawn. **Oct. 10** — Officer Murphy took a report of a person seeing a suspicious bag of trash at Eagle Lake Park. Officer discovered a plaid purse, zebra print purse, woman's jack and knit sweater inside the bag. **Oct. 10** — Officer Murphy stopped a vehicle in the 6200 block of East 37th North. Luz Quinones was arrested on a warrant. **Oct. 10** — Lt. Griggs responded to a possible larceny in the 4500 block of North Glendale. A deadbolt lock was taken from the front door. **Oct. 10** — Officer Foxx responded to a possible burglary in progress in the 4500 block of North Glendale. A woman was taken to the hospital for possible drug overdose and mental evaluation. **Oct. 9** — Officer McCaslin responded to check the welfare of an individual in the 4500 block of North Glendale. Officers could not make contact with anyone at the residence. **Oct. 9** — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 4500 block of North Westlake Court. Three people came to a residence saying they were taking surveys about house siding. **Oct. 9** — Officer Swanson responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 4900 block of East Willow Point. A person was going door-to-door trying to sell services for AT&T late at night. **Oct. 8** — Officer Hutton responded to a report of larceny at a construction site in the 9700 block of East 50th North. Taken were 52 aluminum exterior wall sheets, val-

ued at \$1,560. **Oct. 8** — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of a hit-and-run in the 5200 block of North Woodlawn. The vehicle returned. **Oct. 7** — Officer Swanson responded to a possible disturbance in the 4000 block of East 40th North. **Oct. 6** — Officer McCaslin responded to a possible larceny in the 4200 block of North Rushwood. A woman's jewelry was taken. There were no signs of forced entry. **Oct. 6** — Officer Foxx responded to a disturbance in the 5100 block of East Ashton Court. There were no signs of a physical altercation. **Oct. 6** — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 3700 block of North Woodlawn. Trevor D. Anderson was arrested on a charge of DUI. **Oct. 5** — Officer Murphy responded to a two-vehicle wreck in the 4400 block of North Woodlawn. No injuries were reported. **Oct. 5** — Officer Hutton responded to a disturbance at Northeast Magnet High School in the 5500 block of North Lycee. A student reportedly made threats against another student. The student was taken into custody on a charge of disorderly conduct. **Oct. 5** — Officer McCaslin assisted EMS in the 6700 block of East 45th North. A woman was taken to the hospital after falling. **Oct. 5** — Officer McCaslin responded to a barking dog complaint in the 4000 block of North Danbury. Officer contacted the dogs' owner, who said he was going to purchase a pair of bark collars to resolve the situation. **Oct. 5** — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 5000 block of North Oliver. James D. Andraskewas arrested on a charge of DUI. **Oct. 4** — Officer Swanson responded to a residential alarm in the 4200 block of North Eagle Lake. Painters were at the house working and set off the alarm. **Oct. 3** — Officer Murphy assisted Kechi police on a motion alarm at a residence in Kechi. There were no signs of suspicious activities. **Oct. 3** — Officer Murphy responded to an alarm at a residence in the 4400 block of North Westlake Court. There were no signs of suspicious activities. **Oct. 3** — Officer Murphy responded to a report of suspicious characters in the 4800 block of East Willow Point Court. The resident

said an unknown SUV was at her home and then a second unknown SUV pulled into her driveway. **Oct. 3** — Officer Swanson assisted Kansas Department of Children Service in removing a child for a home in the 3900 block of North Oliver. **Oct. 3** — Officer Swanson stopped a vehicle in the 5500 block of North Greenwich. Joseph Egan was arrested on a Wichita warrant. **Oct. 3** — Officers responded to a report of a runaway in the 4400 block of North Edgemoor. The boy later returned home. **Oct. 3** — Officer Moyer responded to a report of the possible theft of a dog in the 4400 block of Auburn. The dog was later located at the humane society in Wichita. **Oct. 3** — Officer Swanson responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 4100 block of North Oliver. The calling party said she heard noises in her backyard. Officer was unable to locate anyone in the backyard. **Oct. 3** — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 5100 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was cited for no driver's license in possession and no proof of insurance. **Oct. 3** — Officer Foxx placed a two sticker on a vehicle propped up on jack stands in the road in the 5800 block of East Memphis. **Oct. 2** — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of a barking dog in the 4000 block of North Danbury. The dog's owner said he was sorry about the situation. **Oct. 2** — Officer Swanson responded to a found dog report at

the fire station in the 4300 block of North Woodlawn. One of the two dogs ran away. The other was taken to the humane society in Wichita. **Oct. 2** — Officer Foxx transported a dog to the humane society in Wichita. **Oct. 1** — Officer Hutton took a report of a resident receiving harassing phone messages. **Oct. 1** — Officer Swanson responded to a two-vehicle wreck in the 6600 block of East Odessa. No injuries were reported. **Sept. 30** — Officer Murphy responded to an alarm at F&H Insulation in Kechi. There were no signs of suspicious activity. **Sept. 29** — Officer McCaslin stopped a vehicle at 37th North and Woodlawn. The driver was issued a notice to appear in court on a charge of driving with a suspended license. **Sept. 29** — Officer McCaslin assisted EMS with a 1-year-old child choking in the 6200 block of East Danbury. The child was OK. **Sept. 29** — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 4200 block of North Woodlawn. Adam J. Martinez was arrested on a charge of DUI. **Sept. 29** — Officer Steele assisted Wichita police in the 5500 block of East 37th North. **Sept. 28** — Officer Foxx assisted Kechi police on a disturbance at QuikTrip in Park City. **Sept. 28** — Officer Steele responded to a vehicle trunk open in the 3900 block of North Cozy. There were no signs of suspicious activity.

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Bel Aire Breeze



# Terrebonne stepping down from council

By Matt Heilman

Moe Terrebonne is moving on. The Bel Aire City Council member has retired from his position as a water quality supervisor for Wichita's Environmental Services Department.

He's also stepping down from his position on the council.

In his career, Terrebonne has also worked as a school-teacher and as a real estate

agent in his native Louisiana before finding his home in the Wichita area.

In 16 years living in Bel Aire with his wife, Kathy, Terrebonne has served three terms on the city council, starting in the late 1990s and concluding this month. In retirement, he's ready for more sunshine.

Moe and Kathy Terrebonne are moving to a condo in Vero Beach, Fla. before the end of the year.



Terrebonne

months each year to see his

"We just thought it was time to downsize a bit," Terrebonne said.

He said he'd return to Kansas for two to four

daughters and two grandchildren.

Terrebonne said he's been pleased with the progress city leaders have made in Bel Aire, especially in his most recent term on the council, which began in April 2011.

Terrebonne said he ran to rejoin the council after a few years' absence because as a citizen, he observed that the city's overall operational budget "wasn't being managed as well as it should have been."

"I think that while I'm only a small part of the whole thing, I think I helped everyone focus on the one thing that we had control over; our spending," he said. "I think we all worked well together."

Terrebonne can point to the passage of the 2013 budget without a tax increase as a victory for his final term as a council member. Before stepping down this month, Terrebonne said he wants to encourage more citizens

to get involved in the community because there are still significant challenges ahead. He said he'd like to see more citizens share talents with their city by running for office or serving on boards, commissions and civic groups.

"The main thing I wanted to do is focus on what we could control," Terrebonne said of serving on the council. "I think Bel Aire's in pretty good hands."

## HIGHLIGHTS

TOPS KS 1105 Leader Rick Eberhard has announced that TOPS Chapter 1105 has started a "Fall Coat Drive" and it will continue until Nov. 30. Two collection boxes for coats will be set up — one in the Bel Aire Senior Center located at 7651 E. Central Park Ave. and the second at the Bel Aire Recreation Center located at 5251 E. 48th North.

The coat drive will collect adult and children's coats of all sizes.

In early December all the coats donated will be cleaned and then donated to the Wichita Children's Home in Wichita in time for the upcoming Christmas holiday.

The TOPS chapter invites the public to any of its weekly meetings on Tuesdays at the Bel Aire Senior Center. On Oct. 23, there will be a special speaker presenting a program on "Tea Time Traditions." Denise Dias, agent for the Sedgwick County Extension Service, will be the speaker.

For more information about the Bel Aire TOPS Chapter 1105, contact Eberhard at 734-7530 or e-mail: rickeberhard@cox.net

†††

Three area residents participated in the 80th Kansas Junior Livestock Show (KJLS) Sept. 21 through 24 in Wichita. A total of 704 Kansas youth exhibited 1,453

head of livestock. The show is sponsored by the Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas State University and the Agri-Business Council of Wichita.

Those who competed included Mariah Crenshaw of Bel Aire, who received first in class 47 in Commercial Breeding Heifer and fourth and fifth in class 15 in Crossbred Market Steer; Logan McGinley of Wichita who received third in class 3 in Duroc Gilt, sixth in class 10 in Yorkshire Market Barrow, seventh in class 3 in Duroc Market Barrow and received \$1,500; and MacKenzie Moldenhauer of Valley Center who received third in class 13 in Red Angus Breeding Heifer.

# Sunrise graduate eyes future in U.S. Air Force

By Matt Heilman

Sunrise Christian Academy alum and Bel Aire resident Joe Lee is eyeing his future in the U.S. Air Force. Lee will graduate from the United States Air Force Academy in May, after which he said he'd likely be headed for two years of pilot training.

Lee received his post-graduate assignment as a pilot last month. He said he doesn't yet know where he'll be based.

Lee, ranked in the top third of his class at the Air Force



Lee

cialize in counter terrorism.

In his time at the Air Force Academy in Fort Collins,

Academy, said he also planned to apply for the Air Force's Office of Special Investigations, where if accepted, he'd specialize in counter terrorism.

Colo., the 22-year-old said he's grown with his experiences in one of the nation's top undergraduate schools.

With a major in foreign area studies, Lee has had the opportunity to travel across the globe. He's studied Arabic in Morocco and has also studied in Israel. This month, he said he'd make his first trip to the United Arab Emirates.

"I think mostly I've grown a lot as a leader," Lee said of his experiences at the Air Force Academy.

Lee said his interest in

joining the Air Force began in the summer of 2001 when his family visited the Air Force Academy during a vacation. The Sept. 11 attacks happened a few months after the visit, solidifying Lee's desire to attend the academy where he was accepted after submitting his application during his junior year at Sunrise.

On Oct. 5, Lee returned home for his first weekend visit in almost a year. He watched his younger brothers play football for Sunrise and went camping with his family.

## DEATHS

### ROLAND REICH

Roland Gene "Sug" Reich, 84, retired Mobil Pipeline



Reich

corrosion engineer, husband, dad and grandpa, died Oct. 10, 2012.

He was born in Eureka to Charles William Reich and Lucy Pearl (Sauerwien) Reich. He attended and graduated from Eureka High School. He was a U.S. Navy and Korean War veteran.

He is survived by his wife, Delores Reich; sons, Kevin (Gwenna) Reich of Salina and Kelly (Tiffanie) Reich of Bel Aire; grandchildren, Andy (Brynn) Roemer, Tara (Pete) Sauber, Joshua (Melodie) Reich, Sydney Reich, Tyler Reich and Ashlen Reich; great-grandson, Reed Sauber; and many other family and friends.

Service was Oct. 15 at Pathway Church (formerly Westlink), Wichita. Memorials may be made to Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, 313 S. Mar-

ket, Wichita, KS 67202. Baker Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### ELAINE GUEBARA

Elaine Maxine Guebara, 73, retired Andover school district cook, died Oct. 18, 2012.

She is survived by her children, Darla (Edwin) Muller of Port Charlotte, Fla., Linda Guebara of Bel Aire, Michael (Linda) Guebara of Derby, Vt.; and grandchildren, Robert Guebara, Steven Suarez, Paul Guebara, Andrew Suarez, Jessica Suarez, Tiphany Guebara, Jason Guebara, Aiden Guebara, Mark Guebara and Ezekiel Guebara.

Funeral Service was Oct. 21 at Risen Savior Lutheran Church.

A memorial has been established with Victory in the Valley, 3755 E. Douglas, Wichita, KS 67218.

Downing & Lahey Mortuary East is in charge of arrangements.

### PATRICK MCFADDEN

Patrick Gordon McFadden was born Aug. 29, 1944, and died Sept. 25, 2012.

He was the son of Leslie and Wilma (Reed) McFadden. He was a farm boy from Ness County, attending Joint 1 Grade School in the country and high school in Bazine. Throughout childhood, he honed his discipline and leadership skills in 4-H and FFA. He attended college at Emporia State University on a football scholarship and was a math/science major. He was active in Men's Chorale and Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity. He met his wife, Jalene, while singing in an opera. He changed his major to music, eventually receiving a bachelor of music education degree and a master's degree in applied voice. He and Jalene were married June 1, 1967, at the United Presbyterian Church in Sterling. He had many entrepreneurial interests and talents, which led to professions in choral directing, farming, real estate and computer programming. His most recent

venture was ostrich ranching in Butler County. He was co-owner of Kansas Longneck Products and president of the American Ostrich Association. He cared about animals and especially enjoyed cats and dogs and has been involved in church choirs for nearly 50 years and was a member of Eastminster Presbyterian Church. He had been a member of the Wichita Symphony Chorus and the Wichita Grand Opera Chorus.

He is survived by his wife, Jalene (Hammons) McFadden; daughter, Micaela Widman and her husband, Jerad, of Spring

Hill; daughter, Monica Sawall and her husband, Peter, of Bel Aire; daughter, Moneisa Sears and her husband, Sean, of The Woodlands, Texas; grandchildren, Kai, Jace, Kale, Sterling, Brielle and Brenna Widman; James Sawall and soon-to-be baby Maren; Trinnny, Sophie and Molly Sears; sister, Kathleen and her husband, Harvey, of Sitka, Alaska; and brother, Danny and his wife, Patty, of Great Bend.

Services were Sept. 30 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church.

**Anniversary announcements, wedding announcements and obituaries run free of charge in The Bel Aire Breeze.**

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# Survival story gives family a reason to be proud

By Matt Heilman

Life hasn't been easy for Chase Ebie. But you won't hear him complain. Chase is a survivor. He likes to sing and perform. And he loves to run.

The 8-year-old boy with Down syndrome spent the first 44 days of his life in the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Joseph Hospital in Wichita.

Chase weighed about two pounds when he was born prematurely on Father's Day in 2004. His lungs collapsed when he was three days old and he was placed on a ventilator.

"We didn't get to hold him for three weeks," said Chase's mother, Valorie Ebie.

When Valorie and her husband, Delno Ebie, finally got to bring Chase home, the infant weighed about four pounds and couldn't even fit in his preemie clothes. But he had overcome the odds to see the world outside of the hospital.

Since spending his first month and a half surrounded by doctors, Chase has lived his entire life in Bel Aire. It's been a tough road for Chase and many more challenges are ahead, but the 48-pound Isley Elementary Student has come a long way.



**Chase Ebie, who has Down syndrome, has participated in the annual Wichita Down Syndrome Society Buddy Walk with his parents since 2007.**

"It has taken Chase a long time to do many of the things typical children can do," Valorie said.

Chase couldn't walk until he was 3 years old. He couldn't run until after he underwent open-heart surgery



**Bel Aire resident Chase Ebie spent his first 44 days in the neonatal intensive care unit at St. Joseph Hospital. Ebie weighed only two pounds when he was born.**

just before his fifth birthday. Today, there's no stopping him.

Since June, Chase has logged between 60 and 70 miles on the indoor track at Wichita's East Branch YMCA. When he runs, Chase likes to start games of tag and meet new people.

"Pretty much everybody that runs at the Y knows him," Valorie said.

On Oct. 13, Chase and his family took part in the Down Syndrome Society of Wichita Buddy Walk at Heartspring in northeast Wichita. The annual event is designed to

raise awareness for Down syndrome.

For Chase, the Buddy Walk presented a chance to compete. Although the event isn't a race, Chase ran in the Buddy Walk and delighted when he finished first.

On the walk, he was joined by his parents and one of his former teachers, Kathy Kelly, whom Valorie credits for instilling confidence in her son.

"She really believes in him and goes out of her way to still encourage all of us," Valorie said.

The support system around Chase has helped the Ebies

get by. Chase has three adult brothers, cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents and nephews who are "his biggest fans" when he sings one of the songs he's written.

Delno is a professional actor, so performing "comes naturally" for Chase, Valorie said.

Chase will never be able to lead a normal lifestyle, but he will be able to handle more independence as he matures. Valorie said there are different levels of Down syndrome. Some children with Down syndrome in Chase's age group are farther along, while others are less advanced.

She said Chase is learning to read. He struggles with fine motor coordination, but is at his best when he's running.

With his competitive streak, Valorie said she and Delno plan to help their son join a Special Olympics team. The Ebies admit raising the Chase hasn't been easy, but there's nothing they would change about the runner "with a heart of gold."

"We are so very proud of him," Valorie said. "He can be quite frustrating when he wants to do things his way, but the stubbornness has gotten him this far and we are sure it will take him wherever he wants to go. Chase is special and he is our hero."

**Kansas Lt. Governor Gov. Jeff Colyer speaks with a group of Sunrise Christian Academy students about state government during an Oct. 12 presentation. Colyer's visit was part of a grant obtained by Sunrise that aims to help students understand the U.S. Constitution.**



Courtesy photo

## Lt. governor visits Sunrise

By The News staff

As part of a grant obtained by Sunrise Christian Academy, students received a visit from Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer Oct. 12.

Colyer was the first in a series of speakers planned "to engage the students and help them get interested in government," said Sunrise administrator and government teacher, Peggy O'Donnell.

The grant awarded to Sunrise was available through the Bill Of Rights Institute in Virginia and the Fred and Mary Koch Foundation.

As part of the non-partisan grant, O'Donnell said students were asked to write a two-page paper on the topic: "Is the Constitution relevant today?"

The winners of the short essay contest were treated to lunch with an elected official, O'Donnell said.

"Our goal is to help students understand the Constitution," she said.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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## Suburb

**Continued from Page 1**  
and is second in Sedgwick County behind Bel Aire. According to Coldwell Banker, 17 of the state's top 25 suburbs are within an hour's drive of Kansas City. In the Wichita area,

Andover, Colwich, Maize, Goddard, Derby and Towanda also made the top 25. Andover is ranked No. 14, followed by Colwich at 17, Maize at 19, Goddard at 21, Derby at 24 and Towanda at 25. Valley Center and Park City were not on the list.

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